

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated July 26, 2005. Claims 12, 17, and 19 have been amended. Claims 1-10 and 12-20 are presently pending. No new matter has been added.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-10 are allowed and claims 16 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten as independent claims.

§102 and §103 Rejections

Claims 12-15, 17, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,577,075 to Cotton et al. (hereinafter "Cotton"). Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cotton. Applicants traverse these rejections.

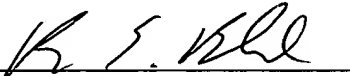
The Applicants have amended claim 12 to recite a feedback loop unit that is "arranged to receive a signal from the detection unit after failure of the first timing signal." Cotton does not teach such a feedback loop unit. Cotton does disclose a feedback loop unit (reference numeral 95 of Figure 4D-1), however, this unit is not configured to receive a signal from a detection unit after failure of the first timing signal. The Office Action identifies items 84 and 115 of Cotton as an alleged detection unit. However, neither of these items provides a signal to the feedback loop unit 95. Link register 84 does provide a signal to the Clock Select 82, but Clock Select 82 is not a part of a feedback loop unit nor is the signal from link register 84 conveyed to a feedback loop unit. In contrast to Cotton, Figure 1 of the present invention illustrates a device in which a signal is provided by an alarm activity unit 20 to unit 22 of the feedback loop upon failure of a timing signal.

For at least these reasons, independent claim 12, as well as claims 13-20 which depend from claim 12, are patentable over the cited reference. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of these claims.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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